

In the Specification:

Please insert the following statement directly after the title:

Government Support

D¹ The present invention was made with Government support under National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Extramural Grant No. 1 R43 AI39906-01 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service. The Government retains certain rights in the invention.

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 13, 21-40, 42-57, 59-75, and 81-83, and amend Claim 2, as indicated below. Cancel all other non-elected claims.

D² 1/2. (Thrice Amended) A ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to a single epitope-containing segment, the epitope containing segment comprising two or more identical epitopes, wherein the epitope-containing segment is not [efficiently] cleaved from the ubiquitin fusion protein by exposure to ubiquitin-specific proteases [*in vivo*] and the ubiquitin fusion protein has the ability to stimulate an immune response to the heterologous epitope contained therein.

REMARKS

In an effort to advance prosecution, Claims 13, 21-40, 42-57, 59-75, and 81-83 have been canceled, thus limiting claims currently under examination to one independent claim, Claim 2, and its dependents.